

The **ART** of Reading Laterally

To check on the truth and accuracy of a source, before reading vertically, fact-checkers open tabs and practice the ART of reading laterally:

A

AUTHOR

Who is the site/article author - and is there a motive behind the message?

What can you learn about the author?

What biases might the author have?



RELIABILITY

How recent is the site/article - when was it published or last updated?



What do other fact-checking sites say about the author and his/her claim?

R

TARGET

Who is the intended audience and why is the author targeting them?

What does the author want his/her target to believe, take a stand against, support and/or purchase?

T



MEDIA LITERACY



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“Lateral readers don’t spend time on the page or site until they’ve first gotten their bearings by looking at what other sites and resources say about the source at which they are looking.” - Web Literacy for Student Fact-Checkers - Mike Caulfield

“Rather than trust the ‘about’ section, leave the website and research the organization or author” - Common Sense

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